

November 5, 1982

LSB(MR-PC)

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Midwest Region

Through: Associate Regional Director, Planning and Resource Preservation

From: Chief, Cultural Resources Management

Subject: Harry S. Truman Historic District

On November 4, I made a number of telephone calls in relation to the Truman home. A summary follows:

1. In a conversation with Pat O'Brien, Historic Preservation Officer, City of Independence, I learned the following:
  - a. There is a Friends of Truman campus of the University of Missouri, Kansas City, across from the Truman Library. There is no Friends of Truman Booster Organization.
  - b. The Truman Institute, headed by John Snyder with Ben Zobrist as Executive Director, is an organization that exists to promote research on the Truman era.
  - c. The Independence Heritage Commission, a city-appointed body, is developing contingency parking plans for the Harry S. Truman Historic District. (The Truman Historic District is a national historic landmark.)
  - d. The First Baptist Church, which is either in or immediately adjacent to the district, is interested in some sort of agreement for the use of their parking lot. It is quite large.
  - e. The city building inspector inspected the Truman home within the last two weeks, and we will be provided a copy of that report.
  - f. Pat will provide us with a copy of the Truman will.
  - g. Park College took over the high school, which is across the street from the Truman home. They have a parking problem and will be a factor in whatever parking plans for the district are developed.
  - h. Pat said that there are two possible sources of volunteers that could help with the operation of the Truman home. They are the Jackson County Historical Society, whose Executive Director is Sally Schenk, and the Junior Service League, whose 1982 President is Sharon Williams.

1. Pat will provide us with copies of both the city ordinance that relates to the Truman Historic District and the National Register nomination. I will pick these items, as well as the will and building inspection report, when Tom Hensley and I are in Independence on November 10.
2. I talked to Ben Zobrist, Director of the Truman Library, and he provided the following information:
  - a. The Secret Service (SS) leased the house across the street from the Truman House for their surveillance program. The lease will expire either at the end of this month or the middle of December. The contact with the SS is James Cantrell, whose FTS number is 758-5022, and whose commercial number is (816) 374-5022.
  - b. The SS has taken its monitoring equipment out of the house across the street.
  - c. The Federal Protective Service (FPS) is administered through GSA, whose Regional Administrator is John Plant, FTS 926-7201. The next administrative layer related to the FPS is the Public Building Service, which is headed in Kansas City by Wayne Roy, FTS 926-7231. The head of the FPS is Mr. McKinley, FTS 726-7025, and the Chief of the Support Services Branch, which arranges for contract guards, electronic surveillance, and kindred things, is headed by Cheryl Brace, FTS 926-7025.
  - d. Don Quiselm is the attorney for the executor of the Truman estate. His number is (816) 842-8600. The United Bank of Missouri is the executor.
  - e. According to Ben, the Truman will states the second floor of the home will not be opened to the public and Margaret Truman Daniels can have use of the house two weeks of the year.
  - f. Ben said the Trumans "didn't throw away anything," and the interior of the house is a gem and the furnishings are complete.
  - g. Ben's telephone number is FTS 750-1400. His home telephone number is (816) 836-3926. Ben's secretary's name is Vickie Alexander who can be reached at the FTS number.
  - h. The Truman estate is currently providing guards for the home.
  - i. Ben has offered to assist us in any way he can. Tom Hensley and I will be meeting with him in Independence on November 10.
3. The next phone call was with Cheryl Brace, Chief, Support Services Branch, FPS. Ms. Brace provided me with the following information:
  - a. The FPS officers are being phased out as fixed station guards. They are receiving advanced training and will be utilized as a mobile reaction force.

- b. All Federal installations with which they deal that need fixed station guards will have contract guards. The FPS will write and monitor the contracts and make sure the guards are qualified. The FPS will provide this service at no cost to the benefitting agency. The guards themselves have been ranging in cost from \$6.50 to \$10 per hour under contract.
- c. The FPS has an electronic system specialist who will be pleased to work with us if we are involved with the Truman home. The FPS has a central monitoring location for all systems with which they work. The electronic system specialist's name is Stan Sheppard.
- 4. I talked with Don Chisolm who is an attorney with the firm providing legal services to the executor, the United Bank of Missouri. I arranged for Tom and me to meet with Mr. Chisolm and someone from the bank to walk through the Truman home and to photograph and do a rough room layout. Ben Zornist is also invited.
- 5. I talked with James Cantrell, Special Agent in Charge, SS office in Kansas City. Mr. Cantrell provided me with the following information:
  - a. The SS is out of the house across the street from the Truman home.
  - b. They have removed all of the monitoring equipment to the systems in the Truman home from the house across the street.
  - c. The SS recently installed Medeco locks in the Truman home. These are double key locks, i.e., a key is needed to get in and a key is needed to get out, but in the installation of the Truman home, they were only keyed for single locking.
  - d. The smoke, fire, and intrusion alarms are still in the home.
  - e. The outside TV monitoring cameras have been removed.
  - f. The cable for the monitoring equipment runs from the house to the nearby garage. Mr. Cantrell says that cable will not be removed, but the cable from the garage to the house across the street is being removed.
  - g. Mrs. Wallace, a relative of Mrs. Truman, lives in a house next door to the Truman home. She is an elderly woman and would probably be an excellent source of information about Truman family life.
  - h. The security specialist for the SS is Bob Holt. Mr. Cantrell said he and others in the office would be pleased to work with us if we become involved with the Truman home.

Sgt. F. A. Ketterson, Jr.